(b) whether the NCDC's ICDP projects are not taken up for further opening in the North-East States where Cooperative movement is least developed;

(c) why the NCDC's ICDP projects which were approved earlier to open in two hill districts and one valley district of Manipur are not opened till now; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in opening them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) NCDC provides financial assistance for the Cooperative projects formulated and recommended by State Governments under NCDC schemes. NCDC does not introduce projects on its own in the States.

(b) The North-East States are given top priority by NCDC for sanctioning Integrated Cooperative Development Projects (ICDP), and all the 28 projects recommended by the North-East States have been approved.

(c) and (d) NCDC has already approved three more districts, namely Imphal (Valley) Ukhrul and Senapati (Hill districts) for implementation of ICDP. However, detailed project reports of these districts are awaited from the State Government for commencement of the project.

Linkage between Agricultural Universities/Research Institutes and farmers

2340. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the technology and expertise gained by Agricultural Universities/Research Institutes do not reach the farmers in the absence of direct linkages between them; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take in this behalf;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In order to facilitate the dissemination of technology and expertise gained by the Agricultural Universities/Research institutes to the farmers, the Indian council of Agricultural Researh (ICAR) have taken up various frontline extension programmes as under:—

(1) Established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) with the State Agricultural Universities (SAU), ICAR Institutes and others including non-government organizations (NGO). The activities of KVK include technology evaluation and impact assessment through on-farm testing and front-line demonstration, and its dissemination through training of farmers and in-service personnel. During 1998-1999, these KVKs have organized:—

(i) 10,696 training courses benefiting 2.58 lakhs farmers and farm-women.

(ii) 2,502 vocational training courses benefiting 45,909 youths.

(iii) 1,224 training programmes benefiting 21,917 grassroot level extension functionaries to update their knowldege.

(iv) 51,765 extension activities such as kisan melas, field days exhibitions, kisan goshties, radio & TV talks, film shows etc.

(v) 145 KVKs bring out monthly newsletters/quarterly news bulletins.

(2) To provide a strong linkage between technology generation, assessment and dissemination to the farmers, the Council have taken up a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up additional functions of KVK in 53 districts where there is no KVK.

(3) The council have recently sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) with the selected SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window support system for technology product information and services to the farmers.

(4) To facilitate scientist-farmer linkage, a project on Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution village Linkage Programme (IVLP) has been launched by the Council at 42 centres of SAUs and ICAR Institutes.

(5) The SAUs have their own Directorates of Extension to undertake various activities for dissemination of technology to the farmers, which include farm advisory services, training of farmers and in service personnel, adaptive trials on farmers' fields, field days,front-line demonstrations kisan melas, workshops, diagnostic services, special campaings, publication of extension literatures and technical support to TV and Radio programmes.

Development of Livestock

†2341. SHRI JHUMUKLAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether technology mission for the development of livestock is being started by the Government of India in the Adivasi areas;

(b) if so, the number of districts of the Madhya Pradesh which are being brought under this programme keeping in view the largest backward Adivasi areas and livestocks of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) by when the Central Government will provide administrative approval and allocate money for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.